
ICANN84 | AGM – Welcome Ceremony
Monday, October 27, 2025 – 9:00 to 10:15 IST

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Chris Mondini, Managing Director, Europe, and Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement.

CHRIS MONDINI Hello, everybody. Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening. If you're familiar with ICANN, you may be familiar with this form of address, a form of greeting, because if you're following us now from Sydney, Australia, it's 08:00 PM. If you're in Buenos Aires, it's 06:00 AM. In Muscat, Oman, it's just after 01:00 PM, and in Dakar, Senegal, it's just after 09:00 AM, just like here in Dublin. And how wonderful it is to be in Dublin and to welcome the world to this enchanting place.

We are delighted to be in Ireland, which boasts the youngest average age population in the European Union and surely one of the most welcoming cultures on earth. We hope to make ICANN 84 an especially welcoming meeting for the many newcomers who are joining this week, as I shall explain a bit later in the program. But for now, please, let me simply thank all of you for attending and introduce the first of our great lineup of speakers, the ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha.

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TRIPTI SINHA

Good morning, everyone. Whether you're joining in person or online, a warm welcome to Dublin. Thank you to our Irish host, INEX, and CEO, Eileen Gallagher, for your hospitality. Many of us remember gathering here for ICANN 54. It is wonderful to be back in Dublin to continue our work together.

Before I begin my remarks, I'd like to take a moment to recognize and remember Henry Meyer, ICANN's Vice President of Global Human Resource Operations and Interim Head of Global HR. Sadly, Henry passed away unexpectedly in late August. On behalf of the ICANN Board, I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and to all who knew him.

We are in Ireland during the country's season of harvest, a time of coming together to celebrate the maturing of crops from seeds that were planted. Traditionally, this was done by groups of people from across the community who would join together to lend a helping hand to the harvest efforts. The Irish people have a word for these collective working groups, meitheal is often used to describe groups of people who come together to work on a project for the common good. Meitheal captures the spirit of our community, people collaborating to do the work that no one can do alone. That is the essence of ICANN, and it is why our multi-stakeholder model endures.

The annual general meeting is our own form of harvest, reflecting on the hard work of the past year and laying plans for our upcoming seasons. This year, we have produced an impressive yield of

achievements together. It was a year in which many important projects came to fruition.

A key achievement this year was approving ICANN's new five-year strategic plan, effective the first of July, with a renewed vision. As trusted stewards of the Internet's unique identifier systems, ICANN is dedicated to strengthening the single, globally interoperable Internet for all. Additionally, we begin this financial year with finances trending positively, with careful stewardship by the organization.

This year, we marked a milestone for the ICANN grant program, announcing in May the first cohort of 23 projects receiving funding. The program resulted from years of dedicated work by the cross-community working group with the ICANN board and org, demonstrating the strength of the multi-stakeholder model at work.

We have taken a bold step forward following discussions at ICANN 82 to take a fresh look at reviews and make them fit for prevailing times so that they serve their purpose with fidelity, to hold ICANN accountable, transparent, and effective. Today, we have a charter for a review of reviews cross-community group called the Reviews CCG, recently approved unanimously by the board on the 5th of September, 2025. On behalf of the board, I offer my thanks to the SOACs for their timely work to develop a charter and appoint members to the Reviews CCG. Work is already underway, and there are two plenary sessions on this topic at this meeting, which I encourage you to attend.

We are delighted to have His Excellency Ambassador Lokaale of the Republic of Kenya, UN co-facilitator for the WSIS+20 review here today, as well as team members of Her Excellency Ambassador Janina of the Republic of Albania. We hope that the final WSIS+20 outcome document will take into consideration the contributions by ICANN and other technical organizations. We are grateful to the co-facilitators for their dedication to making the process as open and inclusive as possible. I look forward to the WSIS+20 session immediately after this session and encourage you to attend.

We saw significant progress towards the next round of the new gTLD program, whose official start date is less than six months away. The applicant support program launched to increase accessibility. The registry service provider pre-evaluation received 38 applicants, and ICANN introduced translation support through the new gTLD program in-your-language initiative. In May, ICANN published a draft applicant guidebook for public comment, working closely with the implementation review team to reflect community policy recommendations. The board will approve the AGB at this meeting.

The AGM is always a bittersweet meeting, and welcome new ones. I would like to take a moment to recognize our board members who will be leaving us. Maarten Botterman. We say farewell to Maarten, whose nine years of service to the ICANN Board have been marked by two qualities, dedication and humility. He served as ICANN Board Chair from 2019 to 2022, shepherding the Board, organization and community through the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to fully virtual ICANN meetings. Remaining steady, calm and focused

throughout this unprecedented disruption. As co-chair of the Board Strategic Planning Committee, Maarten organized the work that produced the ICANN Strategic Plan for FY 2026 through 2030, following on the heels of contributing significantly to the 2021-2025 plan. He helped get the SubPro operational design phase off the ground, made strong contributions to the auction proceeds, CCWG as Board Liaison and then as Chair of the Grant Program Caucus. He spent considerable time on enhancing the effectiveness of the ICANN multi-stakeholder model project, significantly contributing to the June 2025 closeout report. What truly distinguished Maarten was how he treated people, with respect, always supportive of staff and patient even when things were complicated, generous with his time and willing to share advice from his experience. Thank you, Maarten, for nine years of contribution as a Board Director.

Becky Burr. After nine years of extraordinary service, Becky steps down from the ICANN Board, leaving behind a legacy that has fundamentally transformed how this organization operates. She served as a key member of ICANN's CCWG accountability on the IANA stewardship transition and was instrumental in countless critical projects, including her steadfast leadership as Board Liaison to EPDP Phase 2 and 2A on registration data, where her legal expertise helped shape what evolved into RDRS. Becky fundamentally changed how the Board and the community worked together, transforming the dynamic of adversarial letter writing to genuine dialogue and collaboration, a shift that has resulted in dramatic progress and improved relationships. She informed the GNSO

community and beyond on the picket fence, making this concept synonymous with her name. Her work with the GAC through the Board GAC Interaction Group has been a game-changer. If you have worked on anything related to subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, you have worked with Becky. She co-chaired the SubPro final report, helped lead us through complex discussions on RVCs and prohibition of private resolution. She was active on other initiatives. She negotiated the grant program, Recommendation 7, and most recently worked closely with the SOAC Chairs to help launch the Review of Review CCG. As an attorney with profound experience, Becky has an astounding ability to explain complex legal and policy issues clearly to any audience, from the picket fence to IGO protections, always without condescension. Her institutional knowledge is irreplaceable, bringing vital historical context to countless Board discussions. She was a key contributor to the Board Caucus on Budget and Prioritization and a fierce supporter of DNS abuse contract amendments and subsequent policy processes. Becky, you have nine years of your professional life. You gave nine years of your professional life to complex negotiations, tense discussions, and endless policy work, doing it all with grace, clarity, and intellectual rigor that elevated everyone around you. Thank you for transforming ICANN into a more collaborative, effective organization. The picket fence, the dialogue model, and the better ICANN that we are building have your deep fingerprints. Thank you, Becky. Thank you.

Chris Chapman. Chris joined the ICANN Board in September 2022 as an independent director and made phenomenal contributions in just three years. Appointed as chair of the CEO search committee in 2023, he led one of the board's most important responsibilities with exceptional calm and strategic leadership, culminating in Kurtis's appointment as ICANN's current president and CEO. Chris served as an outstanding organizational ambassador during this process. As board vice chair and co-chair of the board's strategic planning committee, his analytical thinking and ability to identify patterns proved invaluable, especially coming from the perspective of an independent and unaffiliated director. He pushed the board beyond comfort zones while fostering cooperation and encouraging input from all, asking hard questions that challenged assumptions. As the board delegated manager to our new ombuds, Chris built an exemplary relationship characterized by intellectual rigor, humor, humility, kindness, and refreshing irreverence. Colleagues consistently note his gift for making others feel valued and bringing out their best, always with excellent humor and gentlemanly bearing. He asked important questions from genuine curiosity, expected excellence because he believed in people's abilities, and supported achievement with unwavering respect for professional expertise. In three years, Chris accomplished an extraordinary achievement for someone who came from outside of the ICANN ecosystem and who was unfamiliar with its vagaries. Though his departure is premature, we are profoundly grateful for his impact. Thank you, Chris. You demonstrated that humor and humility are

strengths and that expecting the best while providing support is true leadership. Thank you, Chris.

Our week ahead is full, and the outcomes of this meeting will have a lasting impact. By embracing meitheal, collective effort and shared responsibility, let's start and leave our time in Dublin with meaningful progress and a stronger foundation for the year ahead. On behalf of the ICANN board, have a great meeting. I now invite ICANN President and CEO Kurtis Lindqvist to the stage for his remarks.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Tripti. And thank you to INEX with CEO Eileen Gallagher and her team for all the hard work behind the scenes to host us here at ICANN 84. It's great to be in Dublin. I have very many fond memories of working with the local internet community here in Ireland, and many of them have become friends throughout the years, particularly through INEX, the local Irish internet exchange. And it's really a pleasure to be back here among all friends and colleagues.

Before we begin, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge Henry Meyer. Henry was vice president and interim head of global human resources for ICANN Org. He passed away unexpectedly in early September, and our hearts and thoughts go out to Heloise, his wife of 33 years, and their children, Aisha and Karou. We were fortunate to call Henry our colleague for nearly eight years. He was an outstanding human resources leader, remembered for his kindness,

his dedication to helping all staff grow and thrive, his infectious sense of humor, and his unabashed love of cats. Henry lived life to the fullest. He and his family made homes in several countries, and he rose to every challenge when called upon. And he cherished nothing more than taking motorcycle excursions with Heloise. Many of us worked closely with him. His professionalism and kindness set a standard for us, and he's dearly missed.

I'd like to recognize our global HR team and staff across the org who have been deeply impacted by Henry's loss for how they have supported each other through this difficult time. Please join your team and staff across the org who have been deeply impacted by Henry's loss for how they have supported each other through this difficult time. Join me in a moment of silence in Henry's honor.

Thank you.

As we gather for this annual general meeting and as I approach the one-year mark in this role, two themes stand out. The scale of what ICANN serves and the support that makes it possible. Scale and support. Scale because the Internet's identifiers never pause, or at least not the systems that depend on them. And I added that last bit because while I do care deeply about identifiers, I haven't quite started seeing them as beings, at least not just yet. Our work spans policy development, implementation, security, stability, and the readiness of what comes next. It reaches governments, businesses, civil society, and end users in every time zone. Support because nothing in ICANN moves alone.

I have visited several ICANN offices, many community hubs, and forums around the globe. At each of these events, we have convened stakeholders from ministries to local operators, from academia to entrepreneurs, and I also spent time with ICANN supporting organizations and advisory committees, and I want to thank you for the welcome, the candor, and the collaboration. Nurturing and building these relationships remain a priority for me, and I'm appreciative of the support this community has shown me. This year has been a year of very complex issues, from regional registry matters to reviews, not to mention the complexity of a rapidly changing and challenging global landscape. And local issues impacting our ICANN offices, from the Los Angeles wildfires at the start of the year to the earthquake in Istanbul. With complexity comes progress, and through new challenges we grow and adapt. There are opportunities to improve how we coordinate, how we communicate, and how we deliver, and I'm very proud of the way that ICANN Org has supported the community to move work forward amid that complexity. I'm also grateful to the board and community for rising to the challenges and continuing to deliver on our important work.

Looking back on the year, despite challenges, we have had steady momentum behind the next round of the new gTLD program, and many of you have contributed years of effort to get to this point. The work is not finished, and yet direction is clear. We are preparing for an expansion that is more predictable, more inclusive for applicants globally. The ICANN grant program is a significant step forward,

enabling practical, localized impact aligned with our mission. The interest in the program tells me that this is a tool the community values, and we will continue to administer it with the rigor and the transparency that you expect. Both of these programs show the importance and the scale and support in practice.

Internally, I want to touch on how we are organizing the work inside ICANN Org to meet what the community asks of us and to ensure we work with a focus on scale and support. Over the past months, we have tightened the line of sight from the strategic plan to every team's objectives. ICANN's organizational objectives for fiscal year 2026 went into effect in July. The aim is simple—clarity of outcomes, ownership, and how success is measured. This clarity ensures that community priorities translate into concrete deliverables across the org, and that each individual working at ICANN can see how their work advances the mission.

I am also pleased to share some important updates within ICANN Org that strengthens our leadership and our structure overall. Andre Abed has been promoted to Chief Information Officer, following his strong leadership as Interim Head of Engineering and IT. With more than 30 years of global technology and experience, he will continue leading our efforts to deliver secure, reliable, and accessible systems for the community and staff. I am also delighted to welcome Ambassador Janis Karklins as our new Head of Government Engagement. Janis will be a familiar face to many of you, and he brings more than three decades of distinguished diplomatic service and a long history of contributions to Internet governance, including

leadership roles in the WSIS, the GAC, and the IGF. I want to sincerely thank Veni Markovski for his dedicated service as Interim Head of Government Engagement over the past two years, particularly his leadership on the WSIS+20 discussions. Please join me in congratulating Andre, welcoming Janis, and thanking Veni.

To better serve our stakeholders, create stronger synergies and strategic alignment across teams with similar skills, and more efficiently support our organizational objectives, I also made the decision to bring the global government engagement and U.S. government engagement efforts together under one executive leader. Jamie Hedlund, formerly the Senior Vice President of Contractual Compliance and U.S. Government Engagement, will now serve as Senior Vice President, Global Government Engagement and Contractual Compliance. And likewise, to enhance collaboration across our technology teams, engineering and IT will now form part of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer under John Crain, with Andre reporting directly to him. And my thanks to Jamie and John for taking on these expanded portfolios.

This coming year, we are focused on advancing continuous improvement and reviews with the community, promoting digital inclusion and preparing for the next round of the new gTLD program, deepening outreach to the Coalition for Digital Africa. We will sharpen our meeting strategy alongside the How We Meet project for more cost-effective engagement, strengthening participation, especially among newer contributors, and support community leadership. We will continue to refine the policy

development process with the community. We will expand our work to combat DNS abuse and uphold contractual compliance and reporting. We will reinforce the root server system and coordinate with the regional Internet registries through the Root Server Stability Governance Working Group and the Internet Coordination Policy 2 update, or ICP2. We are investing in organizational excellence, better reporting, rewards, leadership development and a new IT strategy. We will also deliver the public technical identifiers of PTI's FY26 operating plan and budget for the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, or IANA.

Looking ahead, my focus is threefold. First, I'm here to listen. Extending regular lines of communication with SOAC leaders and the communities is crucial to surfacing risks and challenges early and aligning our expectations and commitments. I look forward to our discussions here in Dublin as we continue to serve ICANN's mission together. Second, I'm focused on delivery. We are here to drive the execution of the next round, advance our work that you have identified in policy and review processes together. Let progress and productivity guide our work this week. Third, I'm dedicated to improving how we work internally. We are working to equip our staff with better tools and practices that reduces the friction that can slow down implementation.

All of this will not be possible without an engaged and dedicated multistakeholder model. To add to Tripta's remarks, ICANN is proud to be among the strongest and loudest supporters of the UN Internet Governance Forum. We support the IGF financially and with

participation by the board, the community and org in sessions and open forums. As part of our strategic plan, we partner with the ITU, UNESCO and other UN agencies to regularly brief governments and diplomats in New York and in Geneva on the technical functioning of the Internet. We look forward to the outcomes of the Business Plus 20 review and we hope to see continued support for the IGF as part of this.

Thank you again to our hosts, thank you again to the many volunteers that make this community function, and to ICANN board and org for their commitment. I look forward to meeting with many of you this week. If there is something we can clarify or improve together, then please seek me out. And I wish you a productive, respectful, and forward-looking AGM. Let's make good use of the next few days and discuss how we can continue to scale and support in our work, so that we leave Dublin with decisions made, work progressing, and a renewed momentum for the year ahead. And now, I have the pleasure of introducing Eileen Gallagher, the CEO of INEX, and our local host for ICANN 84. Thank you.

EILEEN GALLAGHER

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Dublin, and welcome to ICANN 84. I'm Eileen Gallagher. I'm the CEO of INEX, which is the internet exchange here in Ireland. We're extremely proud to host ICANN 84. We know we weren't your first choice as prom date, but we hope that we're rising to the occasion and creating an environment that you can all have a wonderful time in. I'm here

today with my colleague, Patricia Soria, who I think, oh there. Patricia has been instrumental in supporting the ICANN 84 event coming to Dublin, and in particular, the social tonight, so while my name has been mentioned, I think, four times so far, Patricia has been incredible in the work that she has done. So I really want to thank her.

We didn't have as long to prepare for ICANN 84 as we did for the meeting 10 years ago, and as a consequence of that, yesterday's weather was less than nice, so we apologize for the rain yesterday. You'll all be really pleased to hear that unlike 10 years ago, tonight's event is actually indoors, so you won't need all the umbrellas. While our name is up as hosts, we're really here standing today on the shoulders of the Irish internet community, who really threw their backs into helping us deliver this event and deliver as hosts of ICANN 84, so a huge thank you to them.

We're delighted to have two of our INEX directors here today, two people well-known in this community, Michelle neylon of Black Knight and David Curtin of .ie, so thank you to them and to the INEX board for facilitating us hosting this event. We're also pleased to welcome Ian, Owen and Kyle, who are here with the Department of Communications, Culture and Sport. They together with Owen Duggan and Eimear Friel of the Department of Foreign Affairs and other colleagues in the Department of Justice have been phenomenally supportive of hosting this event. For those of you who had to apply for visas here, we hope that the work that they did had helped smooth the process for you. They reached out to

embassies right across the world that were going to receive applications from ICANN attendees and they also reached out to those in Dublin Airport who were in immigration, so I hope all of you that did come through the airport received a really warm welcome, but a huge thanks to them. It wasn't an easy thing to make happen and to do all of that outreach, but it has delivered great benefits.

INEX is entering its 30th year of connecting networks and people and our focus has and always has been on ensuring that the interconnection we offer here is world class. We developed a bespoke management software to ensure we securely, reliably and consistently deliver world class services to our members and as part of doing that, the software that we developed became known as IXP Manager and thanks to the ruthless guidance of it by Barry O'Donovan and Nick Hilliard, it actually has remained very true to its core of helping to manage a very good internet exchange. We made that available as an open source platform and it's now the most used IXP software platform in the world. It powers peering at 250 internet exchanges around the world and in around 100 countries and for many of you joining today, IXP Manager is very likely running the internet exchange that your traffic here from the ICANN meeting is arriving to you via.

In relation to the connectivity here at the event, Nick Hilliard, our CTO, has been working with a number of people to deliver that, but in particular I'd like to call out our member AIR who have been very supportive in delivering it. ICANN is actually peering at INEX and we're very delighted to have AS27500 on the peering LAN at INEX

throughout the meeting, so your traffic is going over our internet exchange and possibly others around the world, so thank you for your support AIR and to Nick and Barry for their work as well. IXP Manager is one of the wonderful examples of how the internet really works. It's collaborative, open and global. Similar to the ICANN community, it works because it's powered by people who simply care about making the internet more resilient.

You'll find that Tripti and I did not coordinate on our speeches because there is a beautiful word that reflects the community collaboration that ICANN and INEX both have, which is meitheal, which Tripti spoke so nicely about. As she said, it speaks to the power of community and collective endeavor. I'm originally from a very, it's the gratuitous mention of Mayo here, Kurtis, I'm from a very small farm in the west of Ireland and certainly in my childhood, meitheal was a very big part of what we did. We had people coming to our farm to help us and we went and helped others. And all of that really was about the fact that ultimately you would benefit from the work saving hay, saving turf, whatever else. But Ireland has really progressed since then. Our farming here is very industrialized, we have an excellent farming community, but I'm aware that those who are in the room today and others who are watching around the world will really be in communities where that system of meitheal farming is alive and well today. Because I know that Ireland has progressed hugely over the last 60, 70, 80 years in relation to how things work, but at the core of everything we do, meitheal is still there and the core of the community is still here in Ireland.

But the concept that underpins meitheal is absolutely nothing new to Kurtis, who in his previous roles has been an incredible supporter of INEX, of our team and of the work of building and evolving the resilience and openness of the internet's networks. As was recently said by him in an excellent post, and I'll try and read it so I don't misquote you Kurtis, the current model of internet governance has been so successful that parts of the world are starting to take it for granted. The point he made, it was relevant not just for internet governance, but certainly we would see at the physical layer of the internet world. He noted that the community gathering here at ICANN and the work in WSIS+20 is very important to ensure that we not only defend the model, but that we evolve it based on the fundamental principles. So part of our job here at ICANN, here at INEX and across the entire multi-stakeholder network is to remind the world what makes this model special. It's built on openness and collaboration and we must not only defend those principles, but work to evolve them together, creating a shared shelter for the internet's future.

As we begin this week of dialogue, and as we look forward to the work of the WSIS+20 discussions, I hope we can keep that spirit close, the spirit of meitheal, of shared purpose, of building something lasting together. And that's really for all of you here and all of you watching online, is to contribute to that, knowing that ultimately, whether or not you may win in one discussion, but ultimately you will benefit from a better principled internet.

A heartfelt thank you to the ICANN team. We've been thanked very much by Kurtis and by Tripti, but it has been incredible to have a ringside seat to the pivot that the ICANN team has done to deliver this event in Dublin. There's a huge amount of very big things that you see here, but there is an enormous amount and many more things that you don't see. It's the tiny little things that they have done that are invisible to you that will enable the collaboration opportunity that you want to happen here over the next few days, and indeed over the past few days. We're absolutely delighted and thrilled to welcome Kiela a little later on this morning, and we're grateful to them for joining us on a bank holiday Monday in Ireland to give a huge boost of energy to the ICANN 84 meeting. We're very proud that as our internet community here in Ireland is hosting the ICANN 84 meeting, it enables our small island to be a significant part of this important global conversation.

Enjoy this time in Dublin, that's the name of the event tonight, and it's the time that you're having here. Enjoy the people, the crack, the conversations, and may this week plant a few new acorns that will grow into the strong trees that others will shelter under in the future. Go raibh míle maith agaibh. Thank you all very much.

CHRIS MONDINI

Thank you, Claire. Thank you, Eileen. Thank you, Kiel. And I would just like to take a moment myself to say how wonderful it has been to work with you and Patricia and your team in preparing for this meeting. Our next esteemed speaker represents what we

sometimes refer to as the numbers community. It is Hans Petter Holen, Managing Director of RIPE NCC and a leading light in the address supporting organization, which he will explain to us now. Thanks for being with us.

HANS PETTER HOLEN

So thank you, Chris. Friends, community members, I come from the last end of ICANN, the numbers community, and that's one of the most important parts of the network, because when you want to connect to the network, your devices need unique numbers, and that's what we are coordinating. Now, it's also the least important thing from the user's perspective, because you don't really want to see those numbers. They're just there for the Internet to work. So we're from the numbers resource organization, which then consists of five regional Internet registries, which not only is a registry, but we also coordinate the community in our areas. So we're not the ones deciding. It's a community-built, bottom-up policy process in the regions, and I just come from the meeting in my region in Bucharest, and we had like 500 people on the ground and more than 100 participating remotely, and we do these meetings in our region. So you won't see too many of us here, although there are some of us.

Now, just to complicate things, in the ICANN world, we serve as the ASO. So since we're doing numbers, we struggle a bit with names, so in some cases you hear us as NRO and in some cases as the ASO. So ASO is one of the supporting organizations that's been so since the

foundation of ICANN in 1999, and then coordinate numbers with names and the other parts of ICANN. So I mentioned that there are five of us. The world is split between ARIN, LACNIC, AFRINIC, APNIC, and the RIPE NCC, and they're all membership organizations, non-for-profit, and in addition to keeping a registry up to date with unique numbers, we bring together the community in our regions.

So we have an address council, who is then the advisory body to the ICANN board, and you will find the chair of the address council. So yes, I'm chair of the executive council. Hervé Clement is chair of the address council. These are all volunteers, and Hervé together with Nick, Nicole, and Akinori, and Esteban are here to answer questions about the most important work that's going on right now in the numbers community, the governance document for RIRs.

I have great news to you, to welcome our new colleagues on the AFRINIC board. As you may have known, they have been struggling with the governance for some years, but now the members have elected a new board, and I'm happy to say that Wael, the chair, Aziz, the vice chair, and Fiona are board members that are here, so please welcome them and interact with them and offer them any help that you can in order to build a strong community in Africa again.

So I mentioned governance document. I did look up that the first governance document for RIRs is actually an RFC written in 1993, so the numbers community grew out of the ITF culture. We built on consensus or rough consensus that they do there, and the first couple of documents governing us were written as RFCs. When

ICANN was formed, there was a document called ICP2 that describes the establishment of new RIRs, because before ICANN we had RIPE NCC, APNIC, and ARIN, but then LACNIC and AFRINIC were established according to ICP2. Now that's a 25-year-old document, so in the spirit of reviewing what we're doing, we've now been conducting a significant review of this document, and you can find it all here with links or QR codes which you want, and we're now in the process of collecting feedback on the second version of the draft, and the comment period is still open until 7th of November, and just after that the address council will meet and consider all the comments and then figure out whether there is still need for more work or whether this now is in a stable state and can move forward. And from my point of view, it's a balance here by getting it good enough and then starting one of the most important things here, which is audits of the governance system of each individual RIRs. Not that I want to be audited, but I think that's an important element to maintain good governance and show that, and then based on those audits, which will to audit all five of us will take a couple of years, then make improvements to the systems, or whether we need another refinement to this. So we are eager to hear your feedback on this. As you can see here, we had a meeting with GAC yesterday, we will meet with At-Large the ISPCP, and we have a joint meeting with the board where we will also go into some details on the status and the changes now. So if you're interested in that, drop into one of these sessions.

And then I will end it all up with say, join us at our regional meetings. If you're interested in internet governance technical coordination in your region, you can come to Jakarta in February, Louisville, Kentucky in April, Guadalajara in Mexico in May, or the RIRT meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland in May. So that's all I had to share with you. Thank you very much.

CHRIS MONDINI

Thank you, Hans-Petter. We are now honored to welcome one of two co-facilitators appointed by the United Nations General Assembly to lead the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society. We now invite His Excellency Ambassador Ekitela Lokaale of Kenya to deliver a statement on behalf of the two co-facilitators. Please.

EKITELA LOKAALE

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. It's a great honor to join you this morning at ICANN 84 and to bring the greetings on behalf of my fellow co-facilitator, Ambassador Suela Janina of the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania, as we advance together in the WSIS+20 process. Let me begin by thanking our warm and generous hosts, the government and the people of Ireland, for welcoming us so warmly to this beautiful city of Dublin. And to thank ICANN very much for inviting me and my colleague, Ambassador Janina, to join this vibrant technical community here today.

The World Summit on the Information Society, or WSIS, has guided global digital cooperation for two decades. The year 2025 marks 20 years since the Tunis phase and provides a historic opportunity for the United Nations and indeed all stakeholders to text talk, renew commitments and chart a shared digital future. Since the circulation of the zero draft of the outcome document on 29 August, the process has gathered significant momentum. We have held open consultations with both Member States and other stakeholders, including two dedicated stakeholder sessions on the 13th and 14th of October and informal intergovernmental discussions the following week. The second preparatory meeting was held on 15th of October.

And in the course of all these consultations, a number of things have emerged, which although it may be premature for me to discuss, but I would like to highlight a number of them that are shared across the different shades of opinion. Across all regions and stakeholder groups, there is a shared understanding that digital transformation must be inclusive, human-centric, and grounded in human rights. In other words, there appears to be unanimity of opinion that the original or the founding vision of WSIS remains as relevant today as it was 20 years ago. That is what we've heard from the many people we've talked to. Stakeholders have also emphasized that bridging digital divides goes beyond infrastructure. It requires addressing affordability, accessibility, local content, and those structural barriers that still keep many communities offline. There's convergence around the need for enabling policy environments,

predictable regulation, and resilient infrastructure, particularly for developing countries. Colleagues, we've also had reaffirmation that human rights, gender equality, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups are not issues that are just parallel to the WSIS vision, but that are central to it.

On emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, participants have stressed the need for coherence across global processes, including the Global Digital Compact and the Hiroshima AI process, and called for governance frameworks that are anchored in international law and inclusive of the global south.

On internet governance, there seems to be broad support for strengthening the IGF as the central multi-stakeholder platform, with a call to make it permanent, to give it sustainable funding or financing, and to forge closer linkages between the IGF and other intergovernmental processes. In other words, the list of the things on which there is a shared understanding seems to be one that is long, and as co-facilitators we are quite pleasantly surprised.

Of course, some differences remain. Delegations have, for example, expressed varying views on the balance between the WSIS framework and the Global Digital Compact. Different views have been experienced on references to the 2030 agenda, and on how much attention the WSIS outcome review needs to give to emerging issues such as cyber security and AI, which are dealt with elsewhere. Developing countries continue to underline the need for concrete means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer,

and capacity building, while others emphasize coordination and efficiency.

Looking ahead, we hope to issue the revised draft outcome document, REV1, on 7th of November. But meanwhile, before its release, UN agencies will provide inputs to ensure technical coherence, and member states will continue informal discussions to bridge differences in preparation for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly that will take place in New York on the 16th and 17th of December 2025.

So between now and then, we encourage all stakeholders, including the ICANN community, to continue engaging actively. And that's precisely the reason why I'm here. Unfortunately, my colleague Ambassador Janina wasn't able to join us due to other demands on her time, but we have representation from the Albanian delegation to the UN here with us, and the purpose of being here is actually to listen to this vibrant technical community, with the hope that the views that you're going to share with us will inform subsequent versions of the draft outcome document. Your expertise and your networks can help ensure that the WSIS+20 outcome remains technically sound, forward-looking, and responsive to the real needs of users and societies worldwide. We particularly welcome your reflections on how to strengthen the multi-stakeholder model, preserve the openness and interoperability of the Internet, and reinforce synergies between WSIS, the IGF, and ICANN's own processes.

The WSIS+20 review is not just a UN exercise, it's a collective effort to shape the digital future that we all want, one that's open, inclusive, and anchored in shared values. On behalf of my fellow co-facilitator, Ambassador Yanina of Albania, I thank ICANN for this opportunity to engage directly with the technical community. And I look forward to continued collaboration as we work towards a meaningful and actionable outcome in December. Perhaps at this point, let me make an observation I've been making to many colleagues since we got involved in this process. At the UN, we're involved in very many intergovernmental processes, ranging from peace and security, gender, the work of specialized agencies, nuclear nonproliferation, rights of children, everything under the sun. And since I was appointed one of the co-facilitators for this process in April, I haven't seen a community that's so engaged, that is so passionate, and that expresses its opinion on the issues under discussion, as I have seen with the technical community within the WSIS framework. It is phenomenal. I haven't seen it anywhere. And for that reason, although I don't have a technical background myself, I'm just a diplomat and a lawyer, it gives us energy and a reason to be able to come to wherever the technical community within the WSIS framework is gathered. We've been able to join you at the IGF in Norway. We did the same in Geneva. We're here today to try to create spaces virtually where the technical community is able to give us feedback. And at every turn, there's always something new to learn. And my appeal to you this morning is please let's remain engaged. And it's our hope that with the feedback and input that we'll receive from yourselves, we will give to ourselves

and to future generations an outcome document that will guide WSIS for years and decades to come.

CHRIS MONDINI

I thank you, Ambassador Lokaale. I would now like to come to a very special part of our program where we recognize the contributions to the ICANN community of a stakeholder who is among us now. And to do that, I would like to again invite our Chair Tripti Sinha to join me on the stage.

TRIPTI SINHA

It's a privilege to present the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building. This award honors community leaders who have made significant efforts in developing capacity related to ICANN's mission. It is named for the late Dr. Tarek Kamel whose legacy continues to guide us. This year, Dr. Kamel was posthumously inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame, a fitting recognition of his leadership in advancing multi-stakeholder Internet governance and bringing recognition of his leadership in advancing multi-stakeholder Internet governance Bringing the Internet to Egypt and Neighboring Countries.

I am delighted to announce that the ICANN Board has selected Alfredo Calderon as a 2025 recipient. The award recognizes Alfredo for his outstanding efforts in promoting the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance and building capacity on a local, regional and global scale. Alfredo is a self-described lifelong learner,

is also a passionate teacher and used his skills and experience as an educator to co-found the North American School on Internet Governance—NASIG—in 2018 and the Virtual School on Internet Governance—VSIG—in 2020. His efforts in capacity building include mentorship of ICANN Fellows, a decade of involvement in the At-Large community and the North American regional At-Large organization NARALO, and his service as a board member of the Internet Society Puerto Rico Chapter since 2014. His steady contributions have brought new voices into policy work and strengthened the multi-stakeholder model. Alfredo, thank you for helping people find their place in this ecosystem and for turning learning into lasting participation. On behalf of the Board and with deep appreciation for Dr. Kamel's example, I am honored to present you with the Dr. Tara Kamel Award for Capacity Building. Congratulations, Alfredo.

ALFREDO CALDERON

Well, I was surprised to receive this honor. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening for those that are watching us virtually. I have a short message. Distinguished colleagues, friends, and members of the ICANN community, it is with deep humility and profound gratitude that I accept the Dr. Tara Kamel Award for Capacity Building. The award carries special meaning because it bears the name of Dr. Tara Kamel, a visionary Internet pioneer whose lifelong commitment to inclusion, dialogue, and cooperation helped shape the very foundation of global Internet governance. His

dedication to building one strong, stable, and interoperable Internet through the multi-stakeholder model continues to inspire us all.

Capacity building has always been at the heart of my professional and personal mission, as Tripti mentioned. I believe that empowering people through knowledge, mentorship, and collaboration is the most sustainable way to strengthen participation in the Internet governance. This conviction has guided my work, initiatives such as the North American School on Internet Governance and the Virtual School on Internet Governance, and the work that I do in different other programs in other organizations. These programs, both NASIG and VSIC, were designed to open doors for new voices and bridge regions, languages, and disciplines. These efforts have only been possible thanks to the shared vision and tireless dedication of colleagues like Eduardo Diaz from Puerto Rico, Glenn McKnight from Canada, and Lilian Ivette de Luque from Colombia, as well as the generous support of multiple sponsors. Some of them are here. And also, I would like to acknowledge all the mentorship that I have received through different programs in which I have participated. I began as a fellow a few years back. Then I also became a mentor thanks to our leader, Siranush, in the fellowship program, so I appreciate that a lot.

So, I accept this award not as an individual achievement, but as a collective recognition of the many mentors, volunteers, and learners who make these initiatives meaningful. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and generosity continue to remind us, or remind me as

well, that capacity building is not about one person's effort. It is about community impact.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to advancing inclusive, multilingual, and accessible capacity building, ensuring that no voice is left behind, and that future generations can shape a digital world that reflects our shared values of openness, trust, and collaboration. I share this also with my beloved wife, who passed away last November. Before she left this plane, she made me promise two things. First of all, take care of myself, and then keep on doing my thing, which is capacity building. Today, as I stand here, I honor that promise, and I carry her love and encouragement with me in every step of this journey.

I thank ICANN, the award committee, and all the members of this community for this extraordinary honor, and I dedicate it to the memory and spirit of Dr. Tarek Kamel, whose legacy reminds me and us that every step we take to empower others helps build a stronger and more equitable Internet for all. And if I can, you can, and we all can. Thank you.

CHRIS MONDINI

Wow, what a session. We've heard about collaboration and collective action, and our next collective action is to enjoy some great music together. Kila are a Gaelic-singing, melody-playing, trad, fusion, vanguard band who have been composing and arranging their own music since 1987. They have released 21 albums, played in 35 countries on five continents, and today they

will perform music recently commissioned by the outgoing president of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. So I invite you all to enjoy the show, and invite to the stage Kila.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]